

- (c) a link between the apparatus and said companion device for effecting said cooperation.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use [dispensing at least one indicium of value] in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 1 wherein the apparatus further comprises:

- (d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use [dispensing at least one indicium of value] in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 3 wherein said communication means comprises a telephone connection with a remote controlling station

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use [dispensing at least one indicium of value] in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 3 wherein said communication means comprises an access port for providing control access by an operator effecting a connection with the apparatus via said access port.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use [dispensing at least one indicium of value] in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim

3 wherein said communication means comprises a satellite communication connection with a remote controlling station.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use [dispensing at least one indicium of value] in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 3 [through], 4, 5 or 6 wherein said at least one indicium of value comprises a coupon; said coupon being redeemable for at least one second product.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use [dispensing at least one indicium of value] in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 3 [through], 4, 5 or 6 wherein said at least one indicium of value comprises a product sample.

9-17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for operating [dispensing at least one indicium of value from] an apparatus in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device [for] ; said attached companion device delivering at least one first product [to] purchased by a user [substantially contemporaneously with said dispensing]; said user initiating said purchase by conveying payment to said companion device and exercising an actuator; the method comprising the steps of:

(a) In no particular order:

(1) providing a control means [for controlling said dispensing] coupled with said apparatus;

(2) providing a dispensing means coupled with said control means [for effecting said dispensing]; and

(3) providing a link between [the] said apparatus and said companion device [for effecting said cooperation.];

(b) operating said link to effect said cooperation; and

(c) operating said control means to operate said dispensing means to dispense at least one indicium of value in response to said exercising.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for **operating [dispensing at least one indicium of value from]** an apparatus in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 18 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

[(b)] (d) in no particular order:

(1) providing a communication means coupled with the apparatus; and

(2) providing a memory means coupled with said communication;

[(c)] (e) operating said communication means to communicate operational information with the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and

(f) operate said memory means to store said operational information.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for **operating [dispensing at least one indicium of value from]** an apparatus in cooperation with operation of an attached companion device as recited in Claim 19 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

[(f)] (g) communicating at least one directive with the apparatus from a locus remote from the apparatus; said directive effecting a change regarding said at least one indicium of value.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use **[dispensing at least one indicium of value]** in cooperation with operation of a companion device; said companion device and the apparatus being assembled in a unitary configuration; **[for] said companion device delivering at least one first product [to] purchased by a user [substantially contemporaneously with said dispensing]; said user initiating said purchase by**

conveying payment to said companion device and exercising an actuator; the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a control means for controlling [said dispensing] **the apparatus in dispensing at least one indicium of value in response to said exercising;**
- (b) a providing means coupled with said control means for effecting said dispensing;
- and
- (c) a link between the apparatus and said companion device for effecting said cooperation.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use [dispensing at least one indicium of value] in cooperation with operation of a companion device as recited in Claim 21 wherein the apparatus further comprises:

- (d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus from outside the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use [dispensing at least one indicium of value] in cooperation with operation of a companion device **as recited in** Claim 22 wherein said communication means comprises a telephone connection with a remote controlling station

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use [dispensing at least one indicium of value] in cooperation with operation of a companion device **as recited in** Claim 22 wherein said communication means comprises an access port for providing control access by an operator effecting a connection with the apparatus via said access port.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use **[dispensing at least one indicium of value]** in cooperation with operation of a companion device **as recited in** Claim 22 wherein said communication means comprises a satellite communication connection with a remote controlling station.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use **[dispensing at least one indicium of value]** in cooperation with operation of a companion device **as recited in** Claim 22 **[through], 23, 24 or** 25 wherein said at least one indicium of value comprises a coupon; said coupon being redeemable for at least one second product.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use **[dispensing at least one indicium of value]** in cooperation with operation of a companion device **as recited in** Claim 22 **[through], 23, 24 or** 25 wherein said at least one indicium of value comprises a product sample.

28. (New) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a newspaper vending device; said newspaper vending device having an interior storage cavity for storing a plurality of newspapers and a door; said door being enabled for moving from a closed position to an open position by a user conveying payment to said newspaper vending device; said cavity being accessible by said user when said door is in said open position; the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a control unit for controlling the apparatus in dispensing at least one indicium of value in response to said door moving from said closed position to said open position;
- (b) a providing means for effecting said dispensing; said providing means being coupled with said control means and responsive to said control means; and

(c) a link between the apparatus and said newspaper vending device for effecting said cooperation.

29. (New) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a newspaper vending device as recited in Claim 28 wherein the apparatus further comprises:

- (d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information.

30. (New) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a newspaper vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29 wherein said communication means comprises a telephone connection with a remote controlling station

31. (New) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a newspaper vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29 wherein said communication means comprises an access port for providing control access by an operator effecting a connection with the apparatus via said access port.

32. (New) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a newspaper vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29 wherein said communication means comprises a satellite communication connection with a remote controlling station.

33. (New) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a newspaper vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29, 30, 31 or 32 wherein said at least one indicium of value comprises a coupon; said coupon being redeemable for at least one second product.

34. (New) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a newspaper vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29, 30, 31 or 32 wherein said at least one indicium of value comprises a product sample.

35. (New) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a newspaper vending device as recited in Claim 29 wherein said link is a mechanical link connecting said door with the apparatus.

36. (New) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a newspaper vending device as recited in Claim 29 wherein said link is an electronic link connecting said door with the apparatus.